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THE TAILED CELLAR SPIDER, *CROSSOPRIZA LYONI* (BLACKWALL 1867), NEW TO VIRGINIA (ARANEAE: PHOLCIDAE). — A population of an unusual-looking pholcid spider was initially observed by one of us (TC) around the overhead door of an indoor swimming pool in Kirby Athletic Center on the campus of Hampden-Sydney College, Hampden-Sydney, Virginia. A single female was collected and later identified as *Crossopriza lyoni* (Blackwall 1867). This species has not been recorded previously from Virginia, and has been found in North America only in Texas, Florida, Louisiana (Edwards, 1993), and Kansas (Guarisco & Cutler, 2003), making our collection the first for the northeastern United States as well.

VIRGINIA: *Prince Edward Co.* Hampden-Sydney College, swimming pool facility, Kirby Athletic Center, 22 October 2010, T. Clark leg. 1♂, 3♀. Specimens deposited in the Virginia Museum of Natural History, Martinsville, Virginia.

Our specimens of *C. lyoni* were taken in company with the ubiquitous pholcid *Pholcus phalangoides*, but were obviously distinct. *Pholcus phalangoides* is a pale spider with an elongate abdomen, whereas *C. lyoni* is darker grayish-brown, with a subglobular abdomen distinguished by a prominent dorsoposterior tubercle, which forms the “tail” referred to in the vernacular name. Illustrations and a detailed description of the spider may be found in Huber et al. (1999) and at several websites. Like *P. phalangoides*, *C. lyoni* is a synanthrope that colonizes buildings. In addition to many localities in southeast Asia (probably its native range), Huber et al. (1999) have recorded the species from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, India, Mali, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Paraguay, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. Additional species of *Crossopriza* have been described from the New World, but according to Huber et al. (1999) all are synonyms of *C. lyoni*.

Strickman et al. (1997) studied individuals of this species in Thailand and found them to be predators of the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*, a vector of dengue fever. The spiders did not become hosts of the dengue virus, and because they commonly occur in buildings, including homes, the authors concluded that *C. lyoni* could be an important part of an integrated mosquito control strategy.

A search of the swimming pool room revealed a significant, established population of *C. lyoni*. We observed several mature females, a mature male, and many juveniles of various instars. The females and juveniles were in large, loosely organized sheet webs that were distinct from the tangled webs of co-occurring *P. phalangoides*. In the pool area, only three individuals of *P. phalangoides* were seen, suggesting that in this local context, *C. lyoni* may have been out-competing it.

Our new record of *C. lyoni* and those from other North American sites demonstrate that this species can colonize buildings and survive well away from the tropics. For our population, the high humidity and temperature maintained in the swimming pool duplicated the wet tropical environment in the spider’s native land. However, we suspect that *C. lyoni* is much more widespread and more adaptable than current records indicate.

LITERATURE CITED

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